

Appl. No. 10/035,551
Amdt. Dated Aug. ,2003
Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2003

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 12, 13 and 16 as being unpatentable over US 4,979,793 (Bowen et al), and has rejected claims 1, 7, 12 and 17 as being unpatentable over US 5, 311, 614 (Caron et al.) in view of Bowen et al. The examiner also states that claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to these rejections, applicant has amended claim 1 to include all limitations of the original allowable claim 4 and the intervening claim 2, and has amended claim 12 to include all limitations of the original allowable claim 14. Accordingly, claims 1 and 12 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 13, 16 17 and 19 are also allowable by reason of their dependency upon claims 1 and 12, respectively. Claim 20 is kept unchanged since the Examiner has allowed it.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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